Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 04020 192126Z

11

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, UR, IT
SUBJECT: KIRILENKO ADDRESSES ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI)
CONGRESS

GENEVA FOR CSCE DELEGATION

1. DURING MORNING SESSION MARCH 19, SOVIET POLITBURO MEMBER ANDREY KIRILENKO WAS THE FIRST FOREIGN COMMUNIST DIGNITARY TO ADDRESS THE 14TH PCI CONGRESS. THE HIGHLIGHT OF KIRILENKO'S BRIEF REMARKS WAS HIS STRONG ENDORSEMENT OF DETENTE AS THE ONLY REALISTIC COURSE AT THE PRESENT STAGE OF INTERNATIONA DEVELOPMENT. KIRILENKO STRESSED THAT THE SOVIET UNION IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO ASSURE THAT DETENT CONTINUES, AND HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH THE ENEMIES OF PEACE TRY TO DRIVE THE DETENTE PROCESS OFF COURSE, THIS ONLY CALLS FO RENEWED EFFORTS FROM THOSE WHO FAVOR THE RELAXATION OF INTERNATIONAL TENSIONS. KIRILENKO FAILED TO MENTION THE UNITED STATES EVEN ONCE DURING THE COURSE OF HIS PRESENTATION.

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PAGE 02 ROME 04020 192126Z

- 2. KIRILENKO SPOKE ONLY BRIEFLY ON SPECIFIC INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. HE POINTED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT CSCE WOULD BE CONCLUDED IN THE NEAR FUTURE. HE ALSO MENTIONED THE CONVENING OF THE CONFERENCE OF WESTERN EUROPEAN COMMUNIST PARTIES "WHICH WILL OCCUR BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR."
- 3. KIRILENKO BROUGHT TO THE CONGRESS GREETINGS NOT ONLY FROM SOVIET CENTRAL COMMITTEE BUT ALSO PERSONALLY FROM PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV. WHILE DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS, KIRILENKO STRESSED BREZHNEV'S DIRECT INVOLVEMENT IN FOREIGN AFFAIRS.
- 4. ON THE ITALIAN DOMESTIC SIDE, KIRILENKO GAVE DIRECT SOVIET ENDORSEMENT TO PCI GENERAL SECRETARY BERLINGUER CALLING HIM A DISTINGUISHED COMMUNIST LEADER AND "A GOOD FRIEND". HE ALSO NOTED, TO EXTENDED APPLAUSE, THE PCI PRESIDENT LONGO HAD BEEN AWARDED THE ORDER OF LENIN BY THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT. VOLPE

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